

**State of Maine
Androscoggin County**

**Minutes of Budget Committee
Meeting of
November 19, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Norman Beuparlant, Ralph Caldwell, Donald D'Auteuil, Don Fournier, Joseph Grube, Michael Lachance, Mark Lunt, Michael Marcotte, Tony Reny, Nancy Richard, Andrew Titus, Emily Tuttle, Jeffrey Wakeman.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vacant Seat District 5-Auburn (Will be filled tonight with the nomination of Belinda Gerry).

OTHERS PRESENT: County Commissioner/Chairman Randall Greenwood, County Commissioner Beth Bell, County Commissioner Elaine Makas, Treasurer Robert Poulin, County Clerk Patricia Fournier, Dan Hartill Sun Journal, Alfreda Fournier, Mary Roussel, Howard Kroll, Ron Chicoine newly elected commissioner, Ray Lafrance Patrol Captain, Joanne Potvin EMA, Joanna Said Register of Probate, Eric Samson, Tina Chouinard Register of Deeds, Sally Hebert, Mike, Judge Michael Dubois, Leslie Dubois, Richard Gross, Starvos Mendros, Heidi Brooks,

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Marcotte.

On motion of Mr. Beuparlant, seconded by Mr. Wakeman, it was

VOTED:

(059-2014) To nominate Belinda Gerry to fill Vacant Seat District 5 - Auburn.

VOTE: 13-0

Public Hearing

Starvos Mendros - Recommends revisiting the compensation plan, perhaps by allowing commissioners to purchase their own insurance with a small subsidy.

Elaine Makas - Handed out a worksheet explaining what commissioners do, and another comparing wages and compensation for commissioners in various counties.

Mary Roussel, Auburn citizen - Stated her belief that the proposal by Elaine Makas is reasonable.

Heidi Brooks, State Representative-elect - Believes healthcare is an important piece of the compensation package and recommends that the elected commissioners receive fair compensation, especially regarding healthcare.

Ron Chicoine, County Commissioner-elect - Believes it is reasonable for commissioners to have health insurance, especially for those who really need it. He also noted that he is not planning on using the health insurance, and others may not as well, and this could lead to lower costs than anticipated.

Randall Greenwood, Chairman - Feels the public needs to know that after the last meeting, "I really felt like I was kicked, knocked down, and dragged across the floor." He explained some of the responsibilities of the commissioners and noted that the compensation package presented to the budget committee was carefully thought out. He asked the budget members to reconsider and support the proposal for single subscriber coverage and the compensation package.

Michael Dubois Judge of Probate - Stated that the Maine Constitution and Federal Constitution have an article that prohibits a legislative body from reducing the compensation of a judge while in office. He asked that the budget committee follow the law-that there not be a diminishment of the judge's compensation.

Joanna Said Register of Probate - Expressed her concerns regarding the Probate Department. She feels that the Register of Probate should be a full-time job. Noted that Androscoggin is the only county in Maine, in which it is a part-time job. Also stated that there are only two people working in Probate on a daily basis and that they are understaffed. Yet, the Probate's budget was cut about \$3,700 dollars. Ms. Said explained that when the budget is cut, consideration should be taken for employees' needs, and to ensure that services are being met. The justification of the budget cut as well as the cut to the Register of Probate's insurance should be addressed.

Michael Dubois Judge of Probate - Agrees with Joanna Said, and feels the Register of Probate is neglected, understaffed and underpaid. He asked that the budget committee take this information into consideration when making budget decisions.

Public hearing closed at 7:42p.m.

On motion of Mr. Fournier, seconded by Ms. Richard, it was

VOTED:

(060-2014) To approve the minutes of October 22, 2014.

VOTE: 13-0-1
Abstained - Gerry

On motion of Mr. Lachance, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, it was

VOTED:

(061-2014) To approve the minutes of October 29, 2014 as amended.

VOTE: 13-0-1
Abstained - Gerry

On motion of Mr. Lachance, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, it was

VOTED:

(062-2014) To revisit all line items with less than 11 votes to reduce the cuts in consideration of the public comments.

VOTE: 12-1-1
Opposed – Beauparlant
Abstained - Gerry

Emily Tuttle - Stated that she would like reflected in the notes that she has not received the breakdown of insurance information she has been requesting for five years now, and at every meeting this year.

Chairman Greenwood - Responded that she had received the break down on insurance from Commissioner LaBonte before, and the insurance information is put together in a packet for her and she will receive it when the County Clerk returns to the room.

On motion of Mr. Beauparlant, seconded by Mr. Wakeman, it was

VOTED:

(063-2014) To increase 2025-4724 Employee Benefits/Health and Dental Insurance by \$9,221.00.

Friendly amendment to motion: to revisit insurance coverage in the event that a new person is elected/appointed judge.

VOTE: 14-0

On motion of Mr. Lachance, seconded by Mr. Titus, it was

Voted:

(064-2014) To diminish reduction 1005-4925 Superior Court/Witness Fees to \$750.00 rather than \$1,000.00 (Putting back in \$250.00) and
To diminish reduction 1005-4930 Superior Court/Witness Fees, District Court to \$750.00 rather than \$1,000.00 (Putting back in \$250.00)

VOTE: 8-5-1
Opposed - D'Auteuil, Grube, Richard, Wake, Beauparlant
Abstained - Gerry

* **Motion** of Mr. Lachance seconded by Mr. Wakeman:

To diminish reduction 1015-4105 District Attorney/Automobile Mileage to \$500.00.

NO VOTE

On motion of Mr. Lachance seconded by Mr. Titus, it was

VOTED:

(065-2014) To table 1015-4105 District Attorney/Automobile Mileage.

VOTE: 14-0

On motion of Ms. Richard, seconded by Mr. Reny, it was

Voted:

(066-2014) To leave 1010 A.E.M.A. cuts as is.

VOTE: 12-2

Opposed - Titus, Marcotte

On motion of Ms. Richard, seconded by Mr. Lachance, it was

Voted:

(067-2014) To leave 1015-4105 District Attorney/Automobile Mileage cuts as is.

VOTE: 11-3

Opposed - Grube, Richard, D'Auteuil

On motion of Mr. Beauparlant, seconded by Mr. Wakeman, it was

Voted:

(068-2014) To cut 1060-5335 Telecommunications/Office supplies by \$50.00.

VOTE: 13-1

Opposed - Gerry

On motion of Mr. Lachance, seconded by Ms. Tuttle, it was

Voted:

(069-2014) To reduce 2005-4715 Twin County Extension Service by \$2,000.00.

VOTE: 13-1

Opposed - D'Auteuil

***Motion:** of Mr. Reny, seconded by Mr. Titus, it was

To reduce 1078-3120 Communications/Salaries & Wages by \$5,000.00.

NO VOTE

On motion of Mr. Wakeman, seconded by Mr. Beauparlant, it was

Voted:

(070-2014) To move the question.

VOTE: 14-0

(Question Moved) On motion of Mr. Reny, seconded by Mr. Titus, it was

Voted:

(071-2014) To reduce 1078-3120 Communications/Salaries & Wages by \$5,000.00.

VOTE: 5-9

**Opposed - D'Auteuil, Reny, Richard, Grube,
Wakeman, Beauparlant, Tuttle, Caldwell, Lunt**

On motion of Mr. Titus seconded by Mr. Lachance, it was

Voted:

(072-2014) To reduce 1078-3235 Communications/Vacation Buyback by \$1000.00.

VOTE: 14-0

On motion of Mr. Reny seconded by Mr. Titus, it was

Voted:

(073-2014) To reduce 1075-3235 Sheriff's Department/Vacation Buyback by \$2,500.00

VOTE: 14-0

On motion of Mr. Wakeman seconded by Mr. Lunt, it was

Voted:

(074-2014) He wants to clarify that elected County Commissioners can purchase health insurance.

VOTE: 14-0

On motion of Mr. Reny seconded by Mr. Lachance, it was

Voted:

(075-2014) To approve the final budget of \$8,296,714.00.

VOTE: 13-1

Opposed - Gerry

On motion of Mr. Wakeman seconded by Mr. Fournier, it was

Voted:

(076-2014) To adjourn at 9:08p.m.

VOTE: 14-0

Patricia Fournier, County Clerk